

# CalTIP

## CALIFORNIA'S SECRET WITNESS PROGRAM TO HELP STOP POACHING AND POLLUTING

CalTIP (Californians Turn In Poachers and Polluters) is a confidential secret witness program to encourage the public to provide Fish and Game with factual information leading to the arrest of poachers and polluters. The caller is eligible for a cash reward if his/her information leads to a citation or an arrest.



CalTIP was introduced in California in 1981, in order to give Californians an opportunity to help protect the state's fish and wildlife resources. The toll free telephone number operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You may remain anonymous. Please call 888 DFG-CALTIP to report a poacher or polluter.

To make a *tax-deductible donation* to help fight poaching and polluting, write CalTIP, PO Box 226, Clío, CA 96106, or contact Warden Liz Schwall at 916 327-9408.



## Caught Being Good Program

This year, California wardens handed out nearly 700 Caught Being Good tickets to hunters and anglers who were caught setting a positive example as ethical hunters or anglers. The tickets allow the recipients to enter a prize drawing for donated sporting equipment, wildlife art prints and books, and outdoor clothing.

It's not often enough that California hunters and anglers who abide by the regulations are recognized for their ethical behavior and willingness to preserve the state's natural resources. The Caught Being Good Program was designed to offer these sportsmen and sportswomen that recognition, that pat on the back. Wardens' recognition of good sportsmanship not only promotes ethical hunting and fishing, but it also improves the image of hunters and anglers and enhances outdoor experiences for everyone.

The Caught Being Good Program – a statewide campaign that rewards hunters and anglers who display good sportsmanship in the field – is the latest effort by the Department to improve compliance with fish and game laws and to reduce poaching.

## Special Operations Unit & Delta Bay Enhanced Enforcement Project

### Special Operations Unit (SOU)

The SOU is our undercover unit. This unit employs undercover officers for long and short term assignments to apprehend unlawful commercial poaching operations. Past cases have involved unlawful sales of abalone, reptiles, bear gall bladders and other bear parts.

Contact CalTIP to report illegal poaching!

### Delta Bay Enhanced Enforcement Project (DBEEP)

DBEEP is a special project funded by the Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to provide additional patrol effort in the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta and the major river drainages that feed it, as well as the San Francisco Bay area. They focus on the anadromous fisheries in the delta: salmon, striped bass and sturgeon.



*The largest felony poaching case in history was made by the SOU.*



*Members of the DBEEP team patrol Sacramento's Delta.*



### WILDLIFE PROTECTION K-9 UNIT

Dogs have played a part in the war of game wardens versus poachers since well before the turn of the century. Specially trained dogs are one of the tools used by game wardens to fight wildlife crime.

K-9s are an invaluable tool with their uncanny ability to find things by using their senses. Through training, the dog learns to identify certain odors and alert the handler. With these skills, the K-9 can detect concealed game, guns, ammunition, clothing, or hunting equipment.

The police service dogs' protection and apprehension abilities are well known. K-9s are trained to find and detain suspects in serious crimes, and to protect their human partner from physical attack. Many game wardens work in remote areas where law enforcement backup is rare. Statistics show that work as a game warden is extremely hazardous. In fact, wardens suffer nine times more assaults than other law enforcement officers. A K-9 partner offers a major deterrent to physical assault.

DFG K-9s are used primarily in their own areas by their handlers, but have been utilized statewide in fish and game law enforcement operations. The K-9 teams can also be called into service on a mutual aid basis to assist other law enforcement agencies. They have performed educational demonstrations for thousands of people.

Three DFG K-9 teams are now in service: Warden Kathy Ponting and her Rottweiler Kodiak work in the Central Valley/Hanford area; Warden Lynette Reynolds is teamed with Brett, her Border Collie, in Lake County; and Warden Pat Woods patrols with his German Shepherd, Lekso, in the Eastern Sierra/Bishop area. For more information, write: DFG K-9 Unit, PO Box 980215, West Sacramento, CA 95798-0215 or E-mail pwoods@dfg2.ca.gov.